WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for the contactless scanning of a track bed profile extending perpendicularly to a longitudinal extension of the track, comprising the steps of

(a) simultaneously effectuating the scanning and a measurement of any deviation from a desired track level at a location of the scanning,

(b) recording the scanned track bed profile, and

(c) calculating an amount of ballast required for raising the track to the desired track level and for uniformly distributing the ballast in the track bed in dependence on the measured track level deviation and the recorded scanned track bed profile.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein a desired transverse track bed profile is superimposed on the recorded scanned track bed profile when calculating the amount of ballast required.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the amount of required ballast is calculated and the calculation is stored separately for a left and a right half of the track bed.